

EXPERT ANALYZES STEVENS 'PRINTS' FINDS THEM NOT OF SAME FINGERS

New "Evidence" Declared Weak In Hall Murder

By H. S. DENLINGER

"Definite and conclusive" evidence in the form of fingerprints alleged to link Willie Stevens irrevocably with the Hall-Mills murders is neither definite nor conclusive, but indicates, to take the most charitable view, a surprising ignorance of first principles on the part of the "experts" who made the identification.

This is the well-considered opinion announced to The GRAPHIC today by Charles W. Hansen, widely known criminologist, fingerprint expert and head of the American Confidential Bureau, Inc., of 80 Wall St.

Comparison of Fingerprints

Hansen's verdict is based on a careful comparison of a photograph of Stevens's fingerprint as taken at the time of his arrest with another alleged to have been discovered on a calling card of the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall, found four years ago at the spot where the rector and his inamorata, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, met death at the hands of unknown assailants.

Both of these prints were produced in a morning newspaper which has been active in instigating the investigation which led to the arrest of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, her brother, Willie, and her cousin, Henry de la Bruyere Carpenter, on charges of murder.

This newspaper also claimed credit for turning over the mysteriously found calling card to the police, and in reproducing the "evidence" called careful attention to the "initials of Faurot and Drewen in upper left-hand corner, certifying their work."

Joseph A. Faurot is a former deputy police commissioner of New York city. Fred Drewen is a lieutenant of detectives in Jersey City.

Asked Check-Up on Self

As a check upon himself, Hansen, who solved the \$50,000 Eisman radio robbery, the Clara Branch hatchet murder, the Strang case in Oyster Bay, when he tracked three members of the dread Mafia to Italy to secure their conviction for a revenge killing, and a host of other celebrated crimes, asked another expert to examine the "evidence" independently.

This man, Gerhard Kuhne, chief of the Central Bureau of Identification of the Department of Correction, agreed with him as to every discrepancy between the prints, Hansen told The GRAPHIC.

A GRAPHIC reporter, prepared for a lengthy exposition of comparatively minor differences between the prints, was almost stunned when Hansen began by asserting—and demonstrating the reason for his assertion—that at Police Headquarters they had photographed Willie's LEFT INDEX FINGER, while the print with which it was compared in the newspaper reproduction was obviously that of the index finger of a RIGHT HAND.

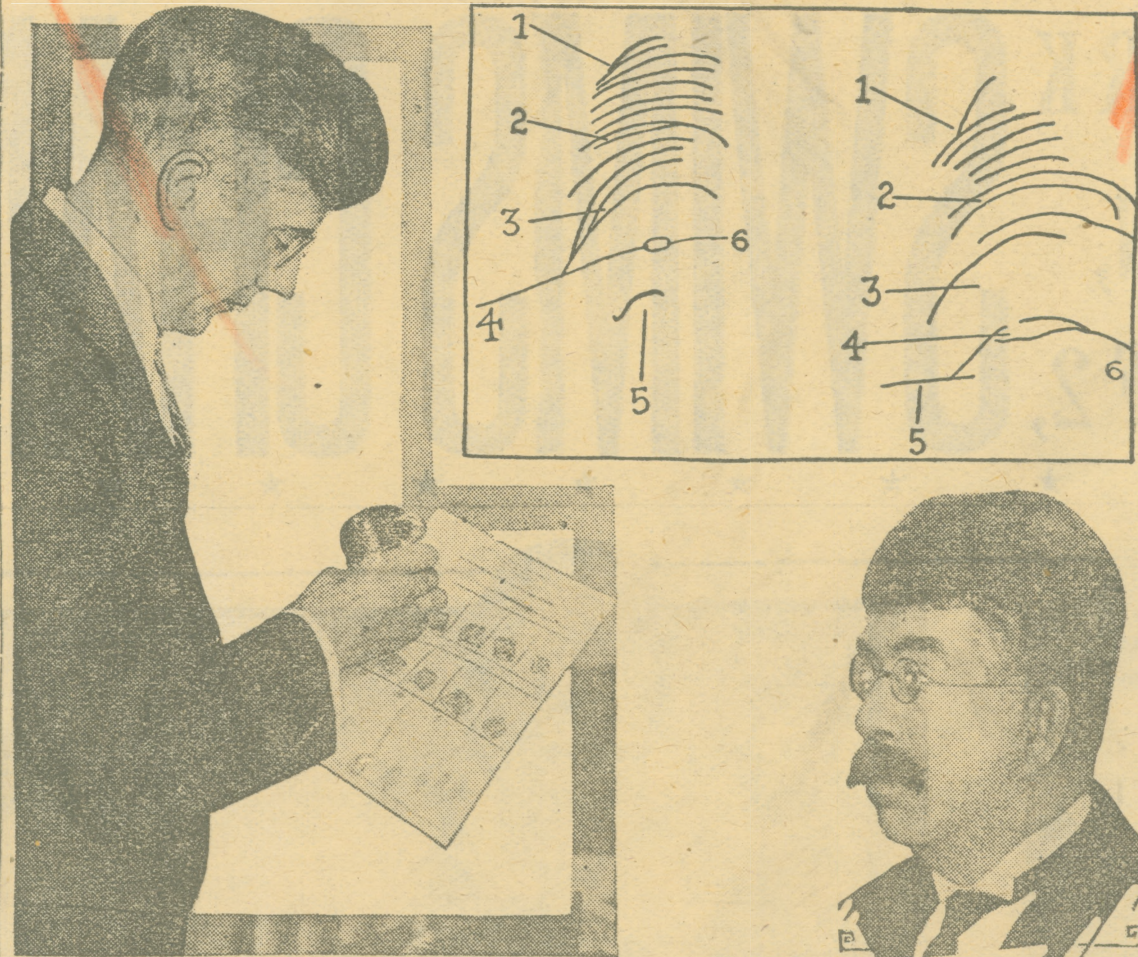
Proof Very Simple

"It's simple," the expert smiled. "The ridges of a finger on the right hand run to the left, inclining with the arch. Conversely, ridges of a finger on the left hand incline toward the right. If you want to prove this, take your own fingerprints with a little black ink."

Hansen paused, and his smile gradually faded. He toyed with the magnifying glass he had been

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Expert Scores Finger Print "Evidence" Against Stevens



CRIMINOLOGIST SHOWS ABSURDITY of state claim that fingerprints alleged to have been found on calling card are those of Willie Stevens. Left, Charles W. Hansen, crime expert, examining fingerprints. Upper right, sketch showing plainly ridge characteristics to assist in comparison. Numbers and lines correspond accurately to those on photographic reproduction of prints in morning newspaper which claimed to have "discovered" them. Note glaring discrepancies between sketch of print taken at headquarters (on left) and that of print from card (right). Sketches illustrate and amplify story carried in adjoining column. Below, Willie Stevens, prospective victim of prosecutor's "important new evidence." (Photo Graphic.)

24 Armed Convicts Rebel, Lock Up Guards and Flee

IONIA, MICH., Aug. 28 (By U. P.).—State police and county authorities in all sections of southern Michigan searched today for twenty-four convicts who escaped from the Ionia State Reformatory this morning in a remarkable jail delivery.

Overpowering the entire night force by means of revolvers and a rifle, believed to have been smuggled in to them, the convicts herded four guards into the quarantine ward, donned guard uniforms and filed out through the main entrance, fleeing in two prison automobiles.

Guard Kicked and Beaten

Preceding the delivery two prison guards overheard a disturbance in D ward of the main building. Rushing to investigate, they were held up at the point of revolvers. They were driven to the quarantine ward and locked up with three other guards. One guard, O. Johnson, was kicked and knocked down.

Following the escape other prisoners broke into a wild bedlam, demanding release. They were quieted by Deputy Warden Edward Height, who discharged a shotgun loaded with bird shot down a tier corridor.

COAL RATES UP AGAIN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28 (By U. P.).—Denying motions to widen the scope of its investigation of coal freight rates between West Virginia and New England, the I. C. C. today ordered hearings to be reopened in New York city October 6.

Western Gunmen Caught After Fight

SALLISAW, OKLA., Aug. 28 (By U. P.).—George and Matthew Kimes, notorious Arkansas gunmen who fatally wounded a deputy sheriff and seriously wounded two other officers in a battle near Mildred, Okla., were captured near Rudy, Ark., early today.

Clearing House

(Official figures)

Exchanges \$778,000,000
Balances 88,000,000
Credit balance . 72,000,000

Cop's Shots Halt Fugitive After Chase Over Roofs

An early morning burglary hunt over housetops, punctuated by a rattle of police bullets, startled the neighborhood adjoining the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn early this morning.

U. S. Rail Men Aid British Strikers

CLEVELAND, O., Aug. 28 (By U. P.).—"Locked out" British miners will have the support of twenty-one railway labor organizations in America, Ben Tillet, British labor leader, announced here today.

Millions of dollars will be sent to Great Britain to aid the miners and 3,000,000 unemployed, according to Tillet.

Hall Sleuth Calls For Showdown on Simpson's Charge

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Aug. 28.—"They have got to show me where I have done anything wrong before they can throw me out of office."

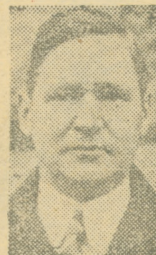
This was the answer today by Ferd David, Middlesex county detective, to an ultimatum from Gov. A. Harry Moore of New Jersey insisting that he "co-operate with the prosecution in the Hall-Mills case or get out."

The governor's action came at the request of Special Prosecutor Simpson, in charge of the case for the state.

Simpson was somewhat taken aback by news that Frank J. Daly of Highland Park had come forward to say that he was the man to whom David turned over the brooch to which the prosecution attached such importance, and that it belonged to his wife. However, Simpson stood his ground and attacked David for denying that the calling card alleged to bear Willie Stevens's fingerprints and to have been picked up at the scene of the double murder had been part of the original evidence in possession of the state.

"Why an attaché of the prosecutor's office in Middlesex county should attack the credibility of the state's evidence, such as the calling card, is enough to warrant an investigation," he said.

"It has been shown that the brooch has nothing to do with the



A. H. Moore



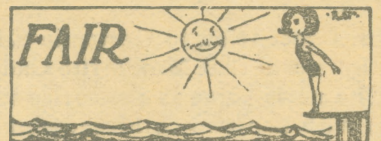
Ferd David

case, in spite of all the shouting about it," David declared today. "And about that card that is said to bear the fingerprints of Willie Stevens—WHEN I WAS QUESTIONED I TOLD THEM ALL I KNEW ABOUT THE CARDS FOUND AT THE SCENE OF THE MURDER, BUT I DIDN'T TELL THEM ABOUT A CARD WITH FINGERPRINTS ON IT, BECAUSE I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SUCH A CARD."

"My oath is as good as anybody's in the world, and I expect people to believe that I can tell the truth as well as any one."

THE WEATHER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1926.



U. S. WEATHER FORECAST

LOCAL—Fair, with rising temperature tonight and Sunday; fresh southwest winds.
EASTERN NEW YORK—Fair tonight and Sunday; slightly warmer tonight in central and north portions; moderate to fresh northwest and west winds.

Hour.	Temp.	Weather.	Barom.	Wind.
Midnight..	73	Clear	29.94	N. 20
2 a. m....	70	Clear	29.95	NW. 24
4 a. m....	67	Clear	29.96	N. 20
6 a. m....	65	Clear	30.00	NW. 21
8 a. m....	66	Clear	30.02	NW. 21
10 a. m....	74	Clear	30.01	N. 10